THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The hon. Member knows as well as I do the old proverb that prevention is better than cure."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether security will be demanded from all Communist papers and periodicals in this Province? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not prepared to answer this as a general question."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Do the Government realize that they are restraining the freedom of the press? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" By all well-known democratic principles, freedom of the press has got to be restrained also if in the opinion of the Government such freedom may become not freedom but licence."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether from all papers with declared socialist tendencies, securities will be demanded? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have already said that I am not prepared to answer any such general question."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the Communist Party of India has promised wholehearted support to the Central Government, will the Government consider the desirability of changing their attitude towards the Communist press? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no question of any attitude towards any party; their position will be carefully watched; and if in the Government's opinion, they are quite safe, the securities demanded may then be cancelled."

Facilities for Madrasis evacuating from Pakistan.

* 129 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government took any, and, if so, what steps to ensure that adequate facilities were given to Madrasis evacuating from Pakistan;

(*b*) how many Madrasi evacuees from Pakistan were rendered assistance by the Government, on their arrival in this Province;

(*c*) what the nature of the assistance given was;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to give compensation to the Madras evacuees who suffered damage in Pakistan; and

(*e*) whether the Government have made any, and, if so, what representation to the Government of India on the subject of such compensation?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Certain representations were received from the South Indian Association at Karachi soliciting the assistance of this Government in regard to the provision of transport facilities for South Indians stranded in Karachi.

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The Government of India, Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, have been requested to arrange necessary transport facilities for these people. The President of the Sind Provincial Congress Committee was also asked to arrange priority passages for them.

"(b) Sixty Madrasi evacuees from Pakistan were given such assistance as was required by them on arrival at Madras.

"(c) The Refugee staff met the trains coming from Bombay, picked up these refugees and rendered them necessary assistance. Most of them required facilities to stay in Madras before they could take the next available train to their homes. They were accommodated in refugee camps. They were taken to the camps and brought back to the respective railway stations in Government conveyance. They were also assisted in obtaining tickets at the railway stations without difficulty. Such of them as belonged to the Madras City were taken to their respective homes in Government conveyance.

"(d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

"(e) No."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether at present there is any difficulty for the emigration of these people from the Pakistan area?" 11-15 a.m.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"As has been explained in the main body of the answer, the difficulty is not about coming but the difficulty is about transport."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Have the Government made any attempt to estimate the loss suffered by the Madrasis in Pakistan?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"We have made no such estimate. Of course people tell us what has happened."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"Will the Government be pleased to depute some non-officials to go to Karachi and study the loss incurred by the Madrasis there, so that it may be possible to compensate them just as in the case of Bengal?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I do not think that such a necessity has arisen."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member mentioned about Bengal. My own impression is that nothing has been done in the case of Bengal except sending an officer to go and make enquiries."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I know from the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether the difficulties have been accentuated within the last one week or ten days and that it is not possible for persons to come from Karachi to the Madras Province?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"So far, no difficulty has arisen. As I have said already, the difficulty is about transport. It is the Government of India that provide the transport for these evacuees from Karachi to Madras and we transport as many people as possible."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, what arrangements are made at Karachi on behalf of this Government to assist the evacuees who wish to come from Pakistan? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" A Special Officer has been deputed for this purpose."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Hon. the Premier has received any representation from families in Karachi stating that these evacuees are generally employees in Government offices and commercial undertakings and that they do not belong to the working classes? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is a matter which I will have to look into. I have not got a ready answer."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Will this Government ask the Government of India to lodge a claim on Pakistan for the loss suffered by the people of this Province who are innocent and who suffered those losses for no fault of their own? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" When action is taken on the several claims that are made, I am sure the Government of India will take necessary steps."

Conviction of Sri Vidyarathna Thirthaswamigal of Udipi.

* 130 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have received any application for setting aside the decision of the Madras High Court relating to the conviction of Sri Vidyarathna Thirtha Swamigal of Sri Krishnapur Mutt, Udipi; and, if so, what action the Government have taken on it?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are not the Government aware that in such matters, the Swamiji attends to spiritual affairs only and that it is the Diwan or the Agent that attends to the temporal affairs? May I know, Sir, why in this case the Swamiji was proceeded against and convicted? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is a matter entirely for the Judiciary and they have come to a certain conclusion. Government do not propose to interfere with the decisions of the Courts of Law. I would also like to place for the hon. Gentleman's consideration the fact that the principal is as much responsible for the acts as the agent himself."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" If so, Sir, may I ask the Government whether they contemplate modifying the rules and thus make it applicable only to those trustees or agents who are in charge of the temporal affairs of the Mutts and not to the Swamijis? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir. I do not think so."